

Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

Superior Court of Arizona | Maricopa County Juvenile Division
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January 2000

A CHILD'S VOICE IN COURT

PRO-BONO ATTORNEY WILL WORK WITH CASA PROGRAM

By Laura Devany

The CASA program has officially moved into the 21st century. After years of needing direct access to legal advice, help is on the way. Fran Baseden, a retired attorney, has agreed to meet with volunteers on a regular basis to answer their legal questions.

Fran retired in 1999 after practicing in the juvenile court for 12 years. She has worked with many CASAs during her tenure in dependency, delinquency, and adoption cases. Fran acknowledged how important the CASA program is to the juvenile court system. "As a major player, CASAs need legal counsel desperately. They're too vital to the case not to have access to legal expertise." Fran is also in favor of getting CASAs better trained in the law so they can make recommendations that can be more easily followed by the Court.

Fran graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1985 and also has a master's degree in sociology and two bachelor's degrees in women's studies and sociology. She looks forward to working with volunteers and has scheduled a time for CASAs to meet with her. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 11th from 11:30-1:30 at the County Bar office.

On behalf of the volunteers, the CASA program is thrilled with Fran's generous donation of time and expertise and looks forward to this collaboration. Check out the training section of the newsletter for details on the meeting with Fran.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Linda Warfield &
Beverly Burch

This month's newsletter profiles two outstanding volunteers who answered the call for more mentors. Thank you Linda Warfield and Beverly Burch for taking on this very important role and the extra duties that go along with it.

Linda Warfield has been a CASA since 1994 and has had three cases with six children. She is still working on her original case and has regular conversations with the child who is placed in Page. Instead of taking a new case, Linda agreed to become a mentor. She was so impressed with her mentor, Jackie Flowers, with whom she became friends, she hoped to be able to return that. "My mentor was always there when I picked up the phone. I want to do the same," Linda said.

When Linda isn't putting out fires in the juvenile court system, she is doing it in her community. After four years of volunteering with the Phoenix Fire Department, she was recently hired as a mentor. She is the team leader of volunteers who, like herself, provide crisis intervention. She and her team respond to any crisis calls from domestic violence to drownings, shootings, suicides, and fires. She works with families and victims helping them stabilize and giving them options to move forward. She gets a great deal out of this work, as she does her CASA work and often walks away feeling she's benefited more than the people she's helping.

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Jackie Flowers	(602) 265-3565
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VOLUNTEER PROFILE- continued

Beverly Burch has been a CASA since 1992 and has had four cases with 11 kids. She is currently on a case she has had for seven years and plans to be with the kids "forever." Since that may be a while, she decided to take on some extra duties. And since she promised her husband she wouldn't take another case, she agreed to be a mentor instead.

Beverly splits her time between Scottsdale and San Francisco. Her husband lives and works in California and Beverly still keeps a home here. She stays in Arizona from October to July because of her CASA case and comes back occasionally in between to see the kids. "I take commitment seriously," she said. No kidding. Bev was working at a children's crisis center when she "found CASA" and just can't seem to leave.

Both Linda and Beverly are looking forward to sharing their CASA experiences with new volunteers and plan to participate in regular peer group meetings.

GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISED FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR AZ ABUSED KIDS

There weren't any holes-in-one at the Orange Tree Golf Resort on December 5th, but there were over 50 golfers raising money for Arizona's abused and neglected children. Special thanks to CASA Laura Lobraico for planning such an amazing tournament. Get Tee'd Off About Child Abuse, the Arizona Council for CASA Golf Tournament, was a success.

Arizona Council for CASA raised over \$3,000 which will help serve the unmet needs of wards of the Court in Maricopa county. Miss Arizona Lori Whiting hosted the Closest to the Pin contest which brought in \$300. Consciousness was also raised by the signs on the tees with facts about CASA, child abuse, and foster care.

Thank you to the following for playing: Mary Leason and son; Margaret Diaz's husband and friends; Connie Quinn's husband and friends; Bill Callahan from Court Administration; and Kay Ott from Arizona Council for CASA with family and friends. Paul Rocca and Kathy Brown's contributions were appreciated, as well as the following who donated prizes and sponsored carts, tees, and greens: American Fine Art Editions, Inc., Cruise One, Diamond Kitchen & Bath, Inc., Ever-Ready Glass, Ken McDonald Golf Course, Mesa Fully Formed, Inc., Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, Inc., Performance Footwear, Pinnacle Design, Inc., Pleko Southwest, Inc., Prescott Country Club, Troon North Golf Club, Westek Builders, Inc. and, of course, Orange Tree Golf Resort for hosting the event.

WHAT CASAS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY

By Laura Devany

Your CASA child's mom just fled the state and took her baby with her. Another CASA child's parents were on the news for a drug bust. Both interesting and perhaps dramatic facts that are just the latest in your ever exciting CASA case. But who can you tell about this? Not your friends. Not your family. Sure, you can talk to your coordinator or the CPS worker, but you'd really like to share these experiences with someone else. You can't. Confidentiality laws prevent CASAs from talking about any identifying information from their dependency case. Sometimes these identifiers aren't always obvious. The following scenarios will hopefully clarify what you can and cannot say or do in situations CASAs may encounter.

A CASA is at the mall with her CASA child and strikes up a conversation with the salesperson who asks if the child is hers. The CASA says no, he's a foster child who is waiting to be adopted. The salesperson has friends who just got licensed to adopt and thinks they would be interested in this boy. The CASA is thrilled. What does the CASA do next?

Call a coordinator because the CASA just breached confidentiality and committed a misdemeanor. CASAs cannot identify their CASA child as a foster child or ward of the Court. The CASA can say the child is someone she spends time with or someone she's taking care of that day, but no more. The CASA should give information to CPS if they know of an adoptive family so CPS can follow up.

A CASA just got pictures of his CASA child with Santa. Can he put this picture on his desk at work?

No. Pictures of dependent children are confidential and should not be displayed in a public place. If a CASA does have pictures of the CASA child, they should be kept in an album and out of plain sight.

The foster mom, who is interested in adopting a child, asks the CASA how the biological parents are doing with their drug rehabilitation. Does the CASA tell her the mom just relapsed and probably has no chance of getting her child back?

No. Any questions not directly related to the welfare of the child, i.e., services, visitation, behavior, school, etc. should not be discussed. The CASA should direct the foster parent to CPS for questions about the case. The same applies to teachers or therapists; the CASA should receive information, not give out information.

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Confidentiality- continued

The probation officer for the CASA child's mom calls the CASA and asks how the child is doing in foster care and wonders if the CASA would like to speak at the mom's sentencing. What does the CASA say?

Nothing. The CASA can not talk to the adult probation officer about the dependency case. The CASA should direct the PO to CPS for information about the child or family. The PO would need to get a court order from a Superior Court Judge allowing the CASA to talk to the PO or at sentencing. (The CASA can speak to the juvenile probation officer in a dually adjudicated case because the cases are both about the child.)

RESOURCES

HOMEBASE YOUTH SERVICES- This agency serves the runaway and homeless youth of Arizona by providing them with a safe, stable, and structured environment and a range of services designed to help these young people prepare themselves to lead independent lives.

HomeBase is a community-based agency of volunteer and paid staff that has an outreach service for homeless and runaway youth 14 to 21 years of age and a residential program for homeless youth 18 to 21 years of age. The independent living program is a follow-up to the residential program, and the runaway prevention program targets area junior and senior high schools. The focus is on educating students on the realities of life on the streets, and teaching educators, administrators, and guidance counselors about the warning signs of youth considering flight.

HomeBase is a 501(c)(3) non-denominational, non-political organization. They are located at 931 E. Devonshire in Phoenix. Call (602) 263-7773 or visit their web site at www.hbys.org for more information.

SUGGESTED READING:

"Bridging Worlds: Understanding and Facilitating Adolescent Recovery from the Trauma of Abuse," by Joyce Kennedy, 1998. This book advises how to deal with adolescents who have suffered childhood neglect and abuse by caretakers and the system.

"Better IEPs-How to Develop Legally Correct and Educationally Useful Programs," by Barbara Bateman, 1992-1998. Examples and complete guidelines for how to, and how not to develop IEPs that will be educationally useful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The address for **AZ Council for CASA** is P.O. Box 36017, Tucson, AZ 85740. Please refer people who want to donate money to this address.

The next **Mentor meeting** is January 28th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Durango Facility, Room 474.

HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations and thank you to the following volunteers for at least five years of service as a CASA:

June Anderson	Dana Gilroy
Linda Anderson	Nat Hathaway
Angela Ashley	Leslie Jones
Beverly Burch	Mike Matcha
Anne Donahoe	Lynda Pederson
Til Dunlop	Judy Peirce
Margo Fitts	Charlotte Rauchfuss
Jackie Flowers	Toni Schulte
Carolyn Ford	Uri Schumm
Nan Garrett	Shelly Stern

Lynda Taylor

Farewell

Goodbye to CASA Support Staff **Ginny Moore** who has moved on to a great new job. Interviews have been completed and new staff will start in January.

Thanks and good luck to CASA **Patty Hackmann** who has left the program. You handled your stressful and controversial case with grace. You will be missed!

Best wishes to **Joyce Gatson** who has left the program after four years and the successful conclusion of all three cases. Thanks Joyce!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Jane Ascherman	6	Linda Mathews	7
Mary Pat Boots	1	Robert Rodriguez	30
Jennifer Boucek	5	Toni Schulte	8
Elaine Casey	15	Dorothy Schulte	23
Katherine Green	6	Paula Solomon	7
Gail Hewlett	30	Ellen Starkeson	18
Isabel Humphrey	19	Mary Thomas	21
Leslie Jones	17	Jim Unland	5
Terrie Kenney	8	Tina Wilcox	6
Rochelle Kirschner	1		

JANUARY 2000						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 Happy New Year!
2	3	4 Peer Group Meeting at Karen Tyrrell's at 7:00 p.m. RSVP: 480-839-4039 by 1-3.	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Brown Bag Lunch w/Fran Basedan. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at County Bar Office. RSVP: CASA office by 1-7.	12	13 Substance Abuse Training- 6:30 p.m.-8:00 pm at Durango, Room 223. RSVP: CASA office by 1-7.	14 New Volunteer Orientation Training- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 1501 West Washington.	15 New Volunteer Orientation Training- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 1501 West Washington.
16	17 Civil Right's Day - CASA Office Closed	18 Peer Group Meeting at Jackie Flowers' at 7:00 a.m. RSVP: 602-265-3565 by 1-14.	19	20 Post Orientation Case Selection Meeting- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Durango, Room 223.	21	22
23	24	25	26 Peer Group Meeting at Angela Ashley's at 1:00 p.m. RSVP: 480-922-5760 by 1-24.	27	28 Mentor Meeting 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Durango, Room 474.	29
30	31					

****If you have been a CASA for 2 years or more and would like to learn how you can become a mentor, please contact your CASA Coordinator. Volunteer mentors are not required to be assigned a case. This has recently been changed.**

CASA SPONSORED TRAINING

January 4, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Peer Group Meeting - Mentor Karen Tyrrell encourages all CASAs to attend. Peer Groups allow CASAs the opportunity to share resources, ask questions, and meet other volunteers. Location: 2051 E. Duke Dr., Tempe. For specific directions and to RSVP, contact Karen at 480-839-4039 by 1-3-00.

January 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Brown Bag Lunch with Attorney Fran Basedan - Bring your legal questions and your lunch to this informal discussion with Fran Basedan, CASA's new pro-bono attorney. Find out about liability, court procedure, and other legal issues. Location: County Bar Association Conference Room, 303 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix. RSVP to the CASA office at 602-506-4083 by 1-6-00.

January 13, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Working With Substance Abusing Families - This training will be presented by Patricia Marchok, who spoke at the Annual CASA/FCRB conference in June. It will cover characteristics CASAs should know about substance abusing families and there will be an emphasis on relapse prevention. Location: Juvenile Court Durango Facility, 3125 W. Durango, Room 223. RSVP to the CASA office at 602-506-4083 by 1-10-00.

January 14-15, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., New Volunteer Orientation Training - CASA training will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 1501 W. Washington, Room 119. If you know someone who would like to be a volunteer, please ask them to call the CASA office at 602-506-4083 to begin the screening process.

January 18, 7:30 a.m., Peer Group Breakfast - Come join Mentor Jackie Flowers at her home to meet volunteers and learn from their case experiences. Location: 6825 N. 3rd Place, Phoenix (East of Central, South side of Glendale). Call Jackie at 602-265-3565 to RSVP and for directions and gate code.

January 20, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Post Orientation Meeting - All new volunteers should attend this informal meeting. Cases for selection will be available as well as a discussion of orientation training. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by 1-17-00 to the CASA office at 602-506-4083.

January 26, 1:00 p.m., Peer Group Meeting - Join Mentor Angela Ashley at her home in the Scottsdale area the last Wednesday of every month. Come meet CASAs and learn from their experiences. Peer Groups are open to everyone. Location 7711 E. Charter Oak Road. For more information and to RSVP, contact Angela at 480-922-5760 by 1-24-00.

Community Sponsored Training

January 4, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Waiting Children: Parental Substance Abuse and Children in Foster Care - This luncheon symposium sponsored by Children's Action Alliance features author Nancy Young. Following the keynote address a reaction panel of state policy makers will discuss policy options and advocacy strategies to address this major problem. The cost is \$15. Location: Hyatt Regency in the Civic Plaza, Phoenix. Contact Angela Rodgers at 602-266-0707 for information.

January 13, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Law for Social Workers, Counselors, and Other Helping Professionals in Arizona - This is a one-day seminar designed for social workers, counselors, social service employees, case managers, school professionals, and others who help clients with day-to-day problems. Location: Ramada Inn 401 N. 1st St., Phoenix. Call 715-833-3959 for registration information.

January 22, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., LifeBook Training - Come learn how to make a written and pictorial history of your CASA child's life. Sometimes these are the only memories these children have. Call Carey Knocke at Arizona Children's Association, 602-234-3733 for location and to RSVP. Please identify yourself as a CASA to expedite the screening process. The training is free.

January 24-26, 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., 11th Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Conference - This year focuses on Children at Risk, Cultural Diversity, Youth Issues, Investigation, Advocacy & Policy, Leadership & Administration, and Family Support. The pre-conference training on 1-24 features Bruce D. Perry, M.D.: Assessment and Treatment of Children Exposed to Violence. Location: Mesa Community Conference Center. Call the Child Abuse Prevention Center for registration information at 520-445-1807.

January 27-28, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Juvenile Deviant Behavior and Youth Violence - If your responsibilities include monitoring juveniles in a teaching environment or working with youth who are considered high risk, you should attend this seminar. Topics covered will include: Risk Factors for Violent Behavior, Gangs in Schools, School Violence Prevention. Location: Holiday Inn Phoenix West, 1500 51st Ave. Call 1-800-863-5726 to register.

January 28, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Understanding Fire Setting Behavior - Anyone who works in the social service field will benefit from this training which will enhance skills in identifying and intervening in fire setting behaviors. Location: St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center Auditorium, 1800 E. Van Buren, Phoenix. Cost is \$25 pre-register or \$30 at the door. Contact Nancy Bartunek at 602-256-4349.

COMMENDATIONS

The FCRB highly commended **Leslie Jones** and the case manager for their determination to provide the appropriate services to the child. Great job Leslie!

Lynzie Euchner was commended by the FCRB for her continued interest and dedication to the boys on her case. Thanks for your commitment Lynzie.

You're off to a great start **Victoria Lopez**! The FCRB appreciated Victoria's efforts on the children's behalf, especially her efforts to maintain the sibling relationship.

Congratulations **Jackie Flowers** on being part of your CASA child's adoption. The FCRB commended Jackie and all parties for the excellent cooperation demonstrated on this case.

Compliments to **Anne Donahoe**! FCRB stated her resources, energy and passion for the children have been a blessing and commended her for her long standing dedication to the case.

The FCRB commended **Marshall Porter** for his efforts in the case. Great work Marshall!

The FCRB commended **June Anderson** for the commitment she has shown over all these years to the children and their needs. Thanks June!

The FCRB commended **Bonnie Weppner-Kahn** for advocating on the child's behalf. Thanks Bonnie, for your hard work these past three years on the case!

Laura Owsley, your dedication is appreciated! The FCRB commended Laura for her excellent work with the children.

The FCRB commended **Jolene Cook** for her outstanding advocacy on behalf of the child and her family. Good work Jolene!

The FCRB commended **Gretchen Black** for her outstanding knowledge and involvement in the case, especially since she's only been on the case (her first) for three months. What an auspicious start Gretchen!

The FCRB commended **Linda Nokes** for advocating in the child's best interest and recommended a job-training program for the mother that Linda identified. Great CASA work Linda!

CASA PROGRAM
Juvenile Court Center
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